

truth is, beneath the rhetoric, we are clinging to the old policy of restraining Saddam. There are now signs that the consensus for even that is fraying. I would hate to think that the boldest hope of our national security establishment is that our policy will hold until noon on January 20 of 2001.

I admit to coming late to an understanding of the evil of the Iraqi regime and the imperative of fighting it. After Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, I voted against the Gulf War resolution. My distrust of the Bush Administration's statements regarding the need for the use of force in Iraq were colored by my own experiences in Vietnam. But Iraq is not Vietnam. And I have come to understand the brutality of Saddam Hussein's regime and the overwhelming requirement to support the efforts of Iraqis to replace it. I understand the threat the regime poses to his people, to his neighbors, and to the rest of the world. Most of all, this is about our commitment to freedom.

The long night of the Iraqi people will not be ended through a policy of merely retraining the Iraqi regime. Instead, we must work to match our words and our deeds to actively support the Iraqi opposition in their effort to remove Saddam Hussein and establish a democratic Iraq. When the people of Iraq obtain their freedom, it will transform the Middle East. It will create a new region in which brutality, poverty, and unnecessary armaments will be supplanted by security, prosperity, and creative diversity.

Mr. President, this goal is within our reach. But the difference between success and failure in this endeavor will be measured by our willingness to act in support of the people of Iraq.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

SUDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, after going to the southern Sudan as a medical missionary and a surgeon 2 years ago, I came home with a realization that the unparalleled human disaster I went there to address was really, to my own surprise, inextricably linked to my role as a Senator. Yesterday, that realization was brought home again to me in the most horrific and despicable way.

As background, the Government of Sudan has, for over 16 years, carried out a war of unrivaled barbarity against its own people. Over 2 million people, mostly civilians, have died in bombings, intentional mass starvation, raids by militias on horseback, and what we call more conventional war. Slavery there today is common, so common that the raiding parties the Government of Sudan in Khartoum sponsors accept captive humans as their pay.

Yesterday, the regime in Khartoum struck once again, this time with old Soviet cargo planes that have been

crudely outfitted as bombers of a sort, where large antipersonnel bombs are simply pushed through large cargo doors.

The accuracy is poor. Yet the intent could not be clearer. I received a phone call yesterday morning around 10 o'clock. It was at 6:25 a.m. yesterday morning, minutes before the first wave of relief flights were to leave the United Nations relief operations in Lokichokio, Kenya, they received a phone call from Khartoum instructing them that no relief flights would be allowed into Sudan the entire day.

The Government of Sudan then proceeded with a full day of bombing raids on nine sites in areas of rebel control.

What were the strongholds the Government of Sudan hit in those raids yesterday? What decisive blow did they deliver to those rebels?

Well, there is one location that I know for sure was a civilian hospital. They bombed and destroyed a tuberculosis clinic and one of the only x-ray machines in the entire country. They hit the local marketplace. They hit a feeding center for the starving and displaced.

In three passes over the small bush town, they dropped five antipersonnel bombs. They killed or maimed civilians, many of them patients in the hospital, others in the marketplace, others in a feeding center for the starving.

All of these were known civilian centers and all were intentionally targeted. The Government of Sudan knows exactly what is in that town and in those hospitals, and they targeted them anyway.

Why do I mention this? How do I know this was a civilian target? It is because it was approximately 2 years ago that in this very hospital I was operating in southern Sudan in a small village called Lui. The TB clinic is adjacent to a small schoolhouse that was converted to a hospital. It is in a small outpost, and there is a little airstrip town there just north of the border approximately 100 or 110 miles. The press release I received today describing the incident in this hospital where I worked says:

Armed aircraft from Sudan's Islamic government dropped 12 bombs on the Samaritans First Hospital in Lui, the only hospital within a 100-mile radius. Eleven of the 12 bombs exploded at or near the hospital killing a number of people, critically wounding dozens, and damaging the hospital's children's and tuberculosis wards. More than 100 patients were being treated or housed at the hospital at the time of the bombing, where four American doctors are stationed. The bombing prompted many patients to flee, interrupting critical tuberculosis treatments needed to save their lives.

This release came to my office this afternoon.

Again, these senseless acts are militarily insignificant, I believe. The only purpose is to terrify and kill civilians and the doctors and the relief personnel who dare to provide life and comfort to them.

The most outrageous aspect of all of this is not that I have been there, that

I know this hospital well, that I was one of the very few physicians and early surgeons to come to that hospital, and it is not that this could have just as easily happened when I was there; it is that this is not an uncommon practice. It is a chosen tactic in the war that lurks on the edge of the world's consciousness.

Just 2 weeks ago, the same government dropped bombs on a town in the Nuba Mountains area, killing 21.

What was the critical rebel target that day? It was a group of schoolchildren under a tree—not child soldiers, but children trying to learn to read.

These are just two in a long and sickening history of intentionally bombing civilians by the Government of Sudan.

How long does the world intend to tolerate these outrages? How long will the regime in Khartoum benefit from their prowess in public relations in the capitals of Europe and the Middle East—and on Wall Street? If indiscriminately bombing children and the infirm doesn't serve as a call to action, then what will it take?

I am realistic about what the world is willing to do. Rage and indignation are expected. But it is about 16 years past due for the "international community" that responds so generously and decisively in many other places to act forcefully and with clear purpose in Sudan.

The world should be ashamed that it has gone on so long. I am ashamed the United States has not made this a greater priority. For a country that is willing to act decisively in Bosnia and Kosovo, we should be ashamed of the anemic level of action to stop this war in Sudan. As a country that is willing to invade another country—Haiti—to stop violence and injustice, we should be ashamed by the fact that we are willing to do so little in Sudan.

I am not suggesting that the United States or anybody else become militarily involved in Sudan. Even if that were politically popular here, it would not be something I would recommend. But the world should be ashamed that we have failed to use all reasonable tools at our disposal. Some of our closest allies in Europe and the Middle East would be especially ashamed for their receptivity toward the regime in Khartoum.

Yes, I am outraged and disgusted by the bombings of yesterday. I am outraged by the bombings of 2 weeks ago. I am outraged and disgusted by the past 16 years of brutality. I believe the administration and the world should share that outrage, and in some cases they do.

But outrage alone gets us no closer to bringing the war to a conclusion. It requires a credible, coherent, and forceful policy from the United States and from the world.

Our policy is only selectively forceful and, as a consequence, lacks coherence and credibility—both in Khartoum and in the capitals of the countries we

must have on board to end the war. Correcting those problems cannot happen overnight, but I propose a few steps we can now take.

First, the House of Representatives should act now to take up and pass the Sudan Peace Act. This bipartisan legislation was written primarily to address the deficiencies in the way our vast amounts of food aid are delivered, and to compel the administration and our allies to bring as much pressure to bear on the Government of Sudan—and the rebels—to get serious in the limping peace talks. This is a sensible and helpful step Congress can take right now.

Second, the United Nations should deploy monitors to areas of conflict in the Sudan now. The Government of Sudan has escaped the condemnation they deserve in large part because the eyes of the world are so far from this remote and enormous land. Human rights monitors can bring this to light and give the world the information they need to push for resolution of the war. Most importantly, they can force the turned eyes of the world to confront the manmade disaster in front of them.

Third, we must overhaul our humanitarian operations in Sudan now. They are in complete disarray. The Government of Sudan has the right—and routinely exercises it—to block any food shipments anywhere in Sudan with the stroke of a pen. It is an outrage that we allow them to manipulate our food aid as a weapon of war. They do it, and they do it with devastating effect. The United States and United Nations must make ending that veto power a top priority. I also call on the humanitarian organizations and the rebels to end their squabbling over the rules of operating and in rebel-held areas and get back to work now. In an argument that can only be described as petty and childish compared to the catastrophe at hand, some of the groups most important to an effective relief operation are pulling out.

Fourth, the administration and our European, Middle Eastern, and African allies must get the floundering peace process moving on. They need to stop letting the Government of Sudan manipulate the process and stop promising cease-fires and cooperation while continuing to carry on the war. In fact, a cease-fire is in effect now, if you can believe it. Our allies must be convinced to stop offering “alternative” peace negotiations to distract from what is really at issue in the talks in Nairobi. They must now set aside legalistic excuses and put the necessary pressure on the combatants to get to the table and get serious about ending the war.

Fifth, we must push our allies to stop responding to what is called Khartoum’s “Charm Offensive.” This PR campaign paints a picture where Khartoum is simply “misunderstood” and unfairly vilified by the United States. They offer the cruise missile attack against the pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum as convincing evi-

dence. They deny the ethnic cleansing in the south as just another arm of the American propaganda machine. The lies have been alarmingly effective and little has been done to disabuse the world of the ridiculous notions.

No. 6, the access to weapons and capital the regime in Khartoum enjoys must be addressed now. The oil being exploited in contested areas of Sudan is fueling the war and allowing Khartoum to plow more money back into weapons purchases. Much of that money has been raised in the United States. Ironically, capital is raised on Wall Street, just blocks from the World Trade Center Towers, which were bombed by terrorist who operated with support from Sudan. I realize that controlling private and legal funds is tricky business, but the United States’ continued ambiguity on this point gives the distinct impression that there is a price on the lives of the people of Sudan, and that the price has been determined. We cannot afford that ambiguity. We must begin an internationally coordinated effort to limit access to the weapons and capital that allows Khartoum to continue their war, just as the world did against the apartheid government of South Africa. Even now, a grassroots effort to push large investors in the United States and Canada to divest of the stocks of the companies operating in Sudan is gaining considerable momentum and having an effect on share prices. Their successes are drawn purely on the power of shame. Surely this tells us that economic pressures can work if coordinated and if supported with good information. Governments will respond to the same shame that investors respond to. It’s a powerful tool in a coordinated diplomatic and economic push, and we would be remiss to not use it.

These recommendations are not unreasonable or particularly difficult tasks. These are things we can do right now beginning today.

It will not require a great deal of money. In fact, it may cost less than we spend now. What it will require, though, is effort, some discomfort and a significant amount of diplomatic and political capital.

What it requires most is leadership. We in Congress can press these issues, but we cannot unilaterally form our foreign policy. That is the Constitutional prerogative and responsibility of the President of the U.S.

The President should immediately become personally involved in seeking resolution and pressing these peaceful goals in Sudan. To date, he has not.

Just a little more than a month ago we observed “the month of Africa” at the United Nations. There, the war in the Congo was the focus. That war is compelling and the implications it has for the future of Africa are very real. It too deserves the focus and attention of the United Nations.

Yet the festering—and much more deadly—war in Sudan went without any serious consideration at the United

Nations during “the month of Africa.” Not only is that shameful in itself, it was a lost opportunity.

We can afford no more lost opportunities when it comes to Sudan. This war has continued long enough and has cost enough lives. It has hovered on the edge of obscurity for too long. It is time to get the world to forcefully and directly address it.

Only the United States can provide that kind of leadership. And only the President can direct the United States’ effort with any hope of ever being truly effective and bring the necessary diplomatic and economic forces to bear.

The President has a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives in Congress willing and waiting to help in that effort. As Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee, I pledge my commitment to such an effort.

It is unusual that we see such opportunities for immediate, bipartisan action in Congress, especially in an election year. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to pass up. To many lives have been lost. Too many lives are still at stake. The time to act is now.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of S. Con. Res. 89 and S. Con. Res. 90 submitted earlier by Senators MCCONNELL and DODD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A Senate Concurrent Resolution (S. Con. Res. 89) to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the Inauguration of the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect of U.S. on January 20, 2001, and a Senate Concurrent Resolution (S. Con. Res. 90) to authorize the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the Inauguration of the President-Elect and the Vice President-Elect of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolutions en bloc?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the above all occur en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Con. Res. 80 and S. Con. Res. 90) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follow:

S. CON. RES. 89

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),